



City of Hampton, VA Meeting Minutes City Council

22 Lincoln Street
Hampton, VA 23669
www.hampton.gov

*Ross A. Kearney, II
Joseph H. Spencer II
Will Moffett*

*Christopher G. Stuart
Donnie R. Tuck
George E. Wallace*

Molly Joseph Ward, Mayor

Staff:

*Mary Bunting, City Manager
Cynthia Hudson, City Attorney
Katherine K. Glass, CMC, Clerk of Council*

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

5:30 PM

Council Chambers, 8th Floor, City Hall

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

MOLLY JOSEPH WARD PRESIDED

PRESENT: Ross A. Kearney, II, Will Moffett, Joseph H. Spencer II, Christopher G. Stuart, Donnie R. Tuck, George E. Wallace

Mayor Ward welcomed everyone to the Spotlight on Citizens Program.

INVOCATION – Vice Mayor Wallace

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SPOTLIGHT ON CITIZENS

Mayor Ward turned the program over to Technology Coordinator Mr. Brian Marchese serving as Master of Ceremony.

Mr. Marchese greeted Mayor Ward, Vice Mayor Wallace, and members of Council, City Manager Bunting, City Attorney Hudson and the citizens. He stated this spotlight program is diverse and many faithful long-term servants will be honored including a business that has been within the City for 50 years.

Mr. Marchese introduced State Senator Mr. John Miller to recognize Mr. Hardy Cash for his 63 years of service with the City of Hampton.

1. 11-0340 Presentation of VA Senate Joint Resolution 417 from the 2011 Regular Session to Hardy W. Cash, Sr.

Mayor Ward welcomed Senator Miller.

Senator Miller greeted Mayor Ward and the members of Council and asked Mr. Cash to come forward to be recognized. Senator Miller read Senate joint resolution #417

commending Hardy W. Cash Sr. The resolution was patroned by himself and Senator Mamie Locke, and agreed to by the Senate February 3, 2011.

WHEREAS, Hardy W. Cash, Sr., has retired after 63 years serving the City of Hampton in various government staff positions under nine city managers; and

WHEREAS, Hardy Cash was born on August 7, 1928, in Williamsburg and moved to Hampton in 1938, when Hampton was part of Elizabeth City County; he received his education from Hampton Public Schools, graduating from Hampton High School in June 1946; and

WHEREAS, Hardy Cash began working for the City of Hampton in 1947, at the age of 19, and throughout his career he held various positions, including administrative assistant to the county manager, purchasing agent, zoning administrator, zoning director, and ombudsman; and

WHEREAS, Hardy Cash founded Hampton Bay Days in 1982, and he continues each year to be a part of the celebrated festival; and

WHEREAS, out of a strong desire to acknowledge the many businesses within the city for their beautification contributions, Hardy Cash worked to establish the Mayor's Civic Improvement Awards Program, which has been an annual event for 27 years; and

WHEREAS, always proud to serve the City of Hampton; Hardy Cash was selected as Public Employee of the Year by the Peninsula Housing and Builders Association and received the Outstanding Service Award from the Clean City Commission; and

WHEREAS, Hardy Cash continues to be a contributing member to his community in numerous capacities; he is a longtime member of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, serving on the board of ushers for more than 50 years, and provides generous financial support to many charitable organizations; and

WHEREAS, Hardy Cash is also a charter member and past president of the Hampton Mercury Lions Club, a lifetime member of the Wythe Volunteer Fire Company, and past president of the Hampton Wythe Little League; and

WHEREAS, Hardy Cash continues to contribute his service, expertise, and historical knowledge to the Hampton community, and he touches the lives of its citizens in many ways outside of the business walls with his commitment to people;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, that the General Assembly commend Hardy W. Cash, Sr., for his numerous contributions to the City of Hampton; and

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Hardy W. Cash, Sr., as an expression of the General Assembly's gratitude for his many years of service.

Mr. Cash commented if he had to do it all over again, he would apply for a job with the City and do it again. He said some of the ladies and gentlemen present weren't born when he began working and they have contributed much to the City. He thanked Senator Miller for the recognition. He concluded his comments by stating "God bless you all. Thank you".

Mr. Marchese thanked Mr. Cash for his comments.

PRESENTED by Senator John Miller who read Senate Joint Resolution 417.

2. 11-0343 Proclamation in Recognition of the 50th Anniversary of Pembroke Construction Company, Inc.

Mr. Marchese stated the next company to be recognized is Pembroke Construction which has been in business in Hampton since September 12, 1961, and has had many years of helping residents on the Peninsula and we have enjoyed having them in the City.

Councilman Spencer asked Mr. Thomas Hunnicutt to join him at the podium while he read the proclamation in recognition of Pembroke Construction. He stated it was a tremendous recognition for 50 years to a solid citizen, not only in Hampton, but also in the Hampton Roads Region. He stated Mr. Honeycutt's acts, endeavors and love for the community are exceptional and we want to recognize anyone who has 50 years in business and a big employer that serves our community so well. Councilman Spencer read the proclamation in recognition of the 50th Anniversary of Pembroke Construction Inc.

WHEREAS, the Pembroke Construction Company, Inc. was incorporated on September 12, 1961, and celebrated its 50th Anniversary in September 2011; and

WHEREAS, in the 1960's Pembroke Construction developed a systematic and efficient procedure for high quality pavement repairs, and was the first company in the area to use infra-red thermal bonding equipment; and

WHEREAS, in the 1970's Pembroke Construction was the first on the Peninsula to design and construct an automated railcar unloading system for crushed stone products; and

WHEREAS, in the 1980's Pembroke Construction opened the Pembroke StoneMart offering area residents, businesses, institutions quality stone products and Interlock™ concrete pavers for construction and landscaping purposes; and

WHEREAS, in the 1990's Pembroke Construction recognizing the need for a safe, well trained workforce renovated a 50 year old structure, creating a new and modern safety and training facility. This facility is also utilized by Pembroke Construction's affiliated companies, local community groups and schools for various programs; and

WHEREAS, in the 2000's, Pembroke Construction has met the most challenging decade of it history by continuing to provide high quality services, and stable employment. Pembroke Construction is especially proud of its 50 year history of providing new construction and infrastructure repairs to Fort Monroe, and is looking forward to continuing our long service with the Fort as it evolves into its new role in our community; and

WHEREAS, Pembroke Construction Company, proud employer of over 70 individuals, applauds its employees for their generous contributions to the Hampton YMCA, the Salvation Army, the Virginia Air and Space Center, the Hampton History Museum, Hampton Public Schools and many other local charities; and

WHEREAS, Pembroke Construction Company is looking forward to continuing its role as a major employer, community member, and service provider in its next 50 years.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Molly Joseph Ward, Mayor, of the City of Hampton, Virginia on behalf of the City Council, do hereby extend our heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of Pembroke Construction company, Incorporated, and recognize them for their presence, and significant contributions to the community.

Mr. Hunnicutt thanked Mayor Ward and the members of Council for the recognition. He stated his company was one of the first sponsors of Bay Days when Mr. Hardy Cash got him way back then. He also stated he was pleased to hear the wonderful things about Hardy Cash. He stated Pembroke Construction is looking forward to the next 50 years. They have some young employees and they will get it done and make it another 50 years.

READ AND PRESENTED by Councilman Joseph H. Spencer, II to
Thomas Hunnicutt.

3. 11-0339 Resolution in Recognition of Angela Lee Leary

Mr. Marchese stated the last person to be recognized is Ms. Angela Leary, a member of Council who served for seven years since 2004, and was also a leader in Hampton for years prior to that.

Mayor Ward invited Ms. Leary to come to the podium. She stated she was honored to read the resolution in recognition of Angela Leary and thanked her for her (Angela Leary) service and dedication to the City of Hampton, not just while on Council, but also before she was on Council. Mayor Ward further stated Ms. Leary has always been active in the community and done her best to make life better for everybody.

WHEREAS, Angela Lee Leary was born on April 8, 1942; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Leary is a proud graduate of Churchland High School in Portsmouth, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Leary spent a good portion of her professional career as the Business Manager of Moseley-Henning Associates, Inc., Architects-Planners-Interior Designers; and

WHEREAS, Angela Lee Leary married Thomas Leary on September 28, 1963, in Portsmouth, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, from that union, they have one child, Catherine Leary Estep, and three granddaughters, Katherine Scarlett Clevenger, Leigh Carder Clevenger, and Jordan Taylor Estep; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Leary was a strong community advocate in the North King Street area and was particularly instrumental in the rehabilitation of the area known as Sinclair Gardens Apartments as it transitioned to Bailey's Park and Sinclair Commons; and

WHEREAS, Angela Lee Leary served the City of Hampton from July 1, 2004, until October 11, 2011, as a member of the Hampton City Council; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Leary is a member or past member of many groups and organizations, often serving in leadership roles, to include Women in Municipal Government, the National Association of Parliamentarians, Chesapeake Harbor Homeowners Association, American Legion Women's Auxiliary Post 48, Salina Street Neighborhood Center, Hampton Court Watch (Co-Founder), Taxpayers Education Association, St. Edwards Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary, Robious-Huguenot League of Civic Associations (Co-Founder), and the Portsmouth Jaycettes, and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Leary formerly served as the First Sergeant of Company A of the 2nd Aviation Battalion of the Virginia Defense Force, and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Leary has served on a number of local Boards and Groups as the Hampton City Council Liaison to include the Peninsula Agency on Aging, the Cultural Alliance of Hampton Roads, the Hampton Arts Commission, the Peninsula Public Sports Facility Authority, the Purchasing and Procurement Oversight Committee, the Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, the Office of Human Affairs, the Hampton Clean City Commission, the Town & Gown Committee, the Hampton Roads Regional Jail Authority, the Hampton Military Affairs Committee, and as Chair of the Hampton Redevelopment and Housing Authority; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Leary served in the Virginia Municipal League on the Human Development and Education Committee and as the voting Delegate for the Commonwealth of Virginia to the National League of Cities (NLC) Steering Committee on Legislative Priorities for Human Development, Education and Public Safety and was presented with the Gold Achievement Award from the Leadership Training Institute at the NLC Conference in Denver, Colorado; and

WHEREAS, Angela Lee Leary attended the National League of Cities Congressional Conference annually in Washington, DC advocating for the citizens of Hampton on issues such as storm water management, flooding and shoreline protection; and

WHEREAS, Angela Lee Leary was instrumental in recognizing the victims and first responders involved in the events of September 11, 2001, through her organization of a commemorative ceremony, A Day of Remembrance and Hope, held at Gosnold's Hope Park in Hampton each year since that time, and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Leary once said, that she possessed a strong belief that much needs to be done and can be, through organization and the simple application of well-directed energy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Hampton, Virginia, that Angela Lee Leary be, and hereby is, recognized and commended for her commitment to the Hampton City Council and to the citizens of the City of Hampton.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be spread upon the minutes of the October 26, 2011, City Council meeting of the City of Hampton, Virginia, and that an appropriate copy be signed by the Mayor, attested by the Clerk, and presented to Angela Lee Leary.

At Vice Mayor Wallace's request, the members of Council took a group photo with Ms. Leary.

Ms. Leary thanked the Mayor for her kind words and for her friendship. She greeted the members of Council, City Manager Bunting and City Attorney Hudson. She thanked the esteemed citizens of the City of Hampton for being present and for giving her seven wonderful years on Hampton City Council. She stated she has enjoyed every moment of being in public office. She stated it has been an honor to represent you (citizens); it has been an honor to be your friend and your advocate. She said she hopes to continue to be an advocate; just in a different way. She said she had been given a script to read by one of her favorite people and you will understand why as time goes by.

Ms. Leary read the following statement: Ladies and gentleman, let me thank you from the bottom of my heart for your kind words, your thoughts and prayers during my time on Council and most of all, now as I retire from public office, thank you for allowing me to be of service to you as a member of City Council. While I am retiring from public office, I am not retiring from public service and I hope to continue to be a voice for the average citizen. Thank you again for what I can only describe as the opportunity of a lifetime. It has been a pleasure, and I leave Hampton with a heart full of hope and promise for a successful future for all of us. Thank you and God bless you all.

Mayor Ward introduced Ms. Charlotte Dillow with Hampton Roads Ecumenical Lodging and Provisions (H.E.L.P) to present a certificate to Ms. Leary.

Ms. Dillow requested members of the H.E.L.P Board Councilman Stuart, Councilman Spencer and H.E.L.P. Board Chair, Reverend Charles Cheek to join in presenting the certificate.

Ms. Dillow stated to Ms. Leary, Mr. Leary and family, on behalf of H.E.L.P and the H.E.L.P. Board of Directors, "You make the difference. Awarded to Angela Lee Leary for outstanding contributions to H.E.L.P. Incorporated and those we serve. I tell you the truth—whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me. Matthew 25:40. Hampton Roads Ecumenical Lodging and Provisions Inc., Hampton City Council recognition service October 26, 2011 signed by (myself) Charlotte Dillow, Executive Director and Reverend Charles E. Cheek, Board Chair."

Ms. Dillow stated Ms. Leary has always had a special place in her heart for those in need. One of those special places was for our homeless veterans. Angela went out of her way to make sure that our homeless veterans had those things that they needed—to the point of several thousand pairs of socks for one contribution she made, food pantry donations and a variety of things she took care of for us while she served on the Board of H.E.L.P. She did a lot of those things even before she was with us. We would like to say thank you for all you do, have done and I know you will continue to do. Our heartfelt prayers and thoughts go with you as you continue on in your next chapter.

Ms. Leary thanked Ms. Dillow.

Mayor Ward recognized Mr. Eddie Deerfield with the Buckroe Improvement League to give a presentation to Ms. Leary.

Mr. Deerfield gave the following statement. Angela, on behalf of the Buckroe Improvement League, as president, I would like to thank you for all you have done. I want to thank you for being my friend. I want to thank you for everything you did for every resident. We are going to miss you.

Ms. Leary thanked Mr. Deerfield.

Mayor Ward stated that concluded this evening's Spotlight on Citizens Program. She stated the roses presented to Ms. Leary were gorgeous. She announced there was cake and punch in the lobby for everyone to enjoy while wishing Ms. Leary well. She noted the Public Comment Portion of the meeting would convene at 6:15 p.m.

READ AND PRESENTED by Mayor Molly Joseph Ward to Angela Lee Leary. Mrs. Leary was also recognized by Hampton Ecumenical Lodging and Provisions and the Buckroe Improvement League.

ADOPTED - The Mayor called a short recess at 5:58 until 6:15 p.m. to give those present an opportunity to speak with Mrs. Leary.

Motion made by: Councilmember Joseph H. Spencer, II
Seconded by: Councilmember Ross A. Kearney, II

Aye: 7 - Ross A. Kearney, II, Will Moffett, Joseph H. Spencer, II,
Christopher G. Stuart, Donnie R. Tuck, George E. Wallace, Molly
Joseph Ward

Nay: 0

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Ward welcomed everyone to the Public Comment Period.

The Clerk of Council Ms. Katherine Glass read the protocol for the Public Comment Period.

Ms. Connie Soles, 4403 Chesapeake Square, gave the following statement. Good evening. I came here to offer kudos for Angela Leary. I have spent all but two years of my career in the Hampton City Schools as a music teacher, and it takes an awful lot to impress me. I am currently engaged to someone that I have known since I was six years old and thank heavens for the internet—we got back together. He lost a son in Afghanistan, killed by a female suicide bomber. I was moved to go to the 911 ceremony and I had to pinch myself. That production staged by Angela Leary was worthy of anything I've seen in New York or on the mall at Washington D.C. I am really going to miss that kind of leadership. Also, if there was anything that was bothering me, I knew I could call on Angela and she wouldn't put me off or pass the buck. She was always right there. I truly am going to miss a woman of quality, taste and experience. Thank you.

Mr. Edwin Boone gave the following statement. Good evening. My name is Edwin Boone. I reside at 48 Snow Street. I only started getting involved in the political thing about three years ago. Angela still is an inspiration. One time she made a statement that she got re-elected and she would do her best to do right by the citizens. She has an illness. She did a great job listening to the citizens, setting up meetings, trying her best to answer questions. I am in a similar boat that she is in. I've had two heart attacks, six by-passes, cataracts removed and I'm insulin dependent. I'm speaking to the citizens of Hampton. You have to get involved. You have to get out and vote. If I can do it, you can do it. I was born with no daddy, on welfare. I graduated from Virginia State. I would like for Angela to be an inspiration, so that her legacy will not falter or fail. We need to get involved. We need to get people on City Council and Mayor such as Angela to keep the City going in the right direction. When she always got our vote in, she stood her ground for what she believed in and she was on the right track. We need to get our four votes and a new Mayor so we can change the City around and let Angela's inspiration be her legacy. Thank you. We need to get out and vote.

Ms. Chanda Epps, 3407 Hardee Court, greeted the Mayor, Vice Mayor and members of Council and gave the following statement. My name is Chanda Epps and I am the Coordinator for Parent Involvement for Hampton City Schools Title 1 Program. Councilman Will Moffett invited me to speak tonight to provide information about a wonderful program that we have in Hampton that engages Dads and other male role models in volunteering in our Title 1 schools. This program is called Watch D.O.G.S. D.O.G.S. is the acronym which means Dads of Great Students. This program invites fathers, grandfathers, uncles and other father figures to volunteer at least one day, all day at their child or student's school during the school year. Watch D.O.G.S. volunteers perform a variety of tasks during the volunteer day including monitoring the school

entrance, assisting with unloading and loading of the school buses and cars, monitoring the lunch room or helping in the classroom with the teacher's guidance by working with small groups of students on homework, flash cards or spelling. Research states that male mentors provide positive reinforcement, encouragement and model positive school related behavior. Research also states that it is important for schools to find ways to connect students, especially African American male students, with mentors into their school lives. So, for this year's National Parent Involvement Day on November 17th and throughout the school year, we encourage all dads, all male guardians and other men in our community to participate in this amazing program and make a difference in the lives of our students in our Title 1 schools in Hampton. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact me at 757-727-2024 or visit the Title 1 Program web page on the Hampton City Schools website. Thank you.

Councilman Moffett noted this is a tremendous program and stated he went to Machen Elementary School last year and had never seen so many men involved with so many young boys. He noted this program is inclusive of all children and young men. He said there is a crisis in the African American community, and on occasion he has called on other members of Council and judges across our community to be visible while we have this platform in our community. He said he also discovered, in discussions with Councilman Tuck, that he has been involved with the Watch D.O.G.S. Program. He further noted that you will be hearing more about this. We currently have more African Americans in penitentiaries than we do graduating from college. At a cost of \$40,000 per year, it would be cheaper to send them to a higher education of learning. He continued stating in the meantime it is incumbent upon us to make a difference in our community with our young men and women. He said he can relate to what Mr. Boone said because he never had a mother or father that he grew up with in the household; so, he is a witness that given a caring environment with caring adults in the community, you can survive. A praying grandmother, extended family that loved him and the grace of God are the reasons he sits on Council. He encouraged the community to stand up and be vocal; we want to hear your voice when it comes to issues that matter. The next generation of young people, both socially and economically, is one of the issues that we have to address. He thanked those involved in the Watch D.O.G.S program and his fellow Councilmembers for their participation. He noted for those who have not been engaged, we will be working with the School Board and every group in the community to raise the level of awareness. He thanked Ms. Epps for attending the meeting and thanked her for all the work she does in the School Division.

Ms. Gaylene Kanoyton, 10 Buckroe Avenue, gave the following statement. Good evening. My name is Gaylene Kanoyton. Good evening Councilmembers, Mayor and City staff. The last time I was here, I talked about the redistricting of the school districts and I met with Registrar Ms. Theresa Kyle and she is doing an excellent job of getting out to the public the information on some of the changes. We have done research and know that it is fair and equitable. I wanted to give kudos to Ms. Kyle. We have an excellent Registrar. In doing research, we talked about the School Board. We have been looking at the School Board and have noticed that you have three at large seats in the Chesapeake Bay District, three at large seats that are in the Hampton District and one City-wide at large seat. I am speaking on behalf of Hampton Watch. The City-wide seat—that person has to work twice as hard to run for office, they have to spend twice the amount of money; they have to be everywhere to cover all of the polls. That is a powerful seat because they represent the citizens. Our recommendation is to have that City-wide seat be automatically the Chair for the School Board just like we vote in our

Mayor. We would like to know what the procedure is if we want to make that amendment change, and what we have to do for that (number one). Number two, as it stands now what happens is that the School Board chooses their own Chair, but what we think is that you will have more people getting involved in a process. We have four seats that are up in May on the School Board and it is imperative that we get more people involved in running for these seats. We have a School Board member that ran and was on the right end because no one was there to run for the seat. I have Dr. Mary Christian with me today. She is a former Delegate and a former School Board member. We also have Reverend Steve Brown and several other members and citizens in the City of Hampton that are supportive of this effort. We need to know what we need to do. We would like to make the at large seat for School Board to be the automatic Chair for the School Board. Mayor Ward and members of Council, I thank you for your leadership in this effort. Thank you.

Mayor Ward noted we would have to get advice from the City Attorney on that issue to see if she may know what the process may be.

Councilman Moffett stated while the City Attorney researches that, he would like some background information regarding how we arrived at an award system for our School Division. He said if he recalls correctly, during that time, there were concerns raised by the community regarding race in the City. There was a discussion and referendum regarding City Council and he would like history on how we arrived there in addition to what we have heard tonight by Ms. Kanoyton regarding the Chair at large. He said he looks forward to the information as well as a public discussion because he thinks the point she (Ms. Kanoyton) raised is very valid.

Ms. Carole Garrison gave the following statement. Mayor, Councilmembers, I am Carole Garrison from 410 Shoreline (Drive). This is concerning Angela. When I first moved to Hampton, my house was repeatedly flooded three times in as many years. Since my neighborhood never flooded before in the four years prior, I decided to take a petition around to get my neighbors to support me in asking the City to look into the reason for the flooding. I had never been concerned with City government before this. I knocked on one (door) of the houses in my neighborhood and talked to a man who kept smiling at me and agreeing with me, but did not sign the petition. I finally asked "Are you going to sign the petition?" This man was Mr. Tom Leary. He laughed and said "Yes, but you need to meet my wife." Angela and I soon became good friends. Angela will be remembered for many things: fighting against inappropriate closed door meetings, listening and actually going to see areas citizens had concerns with, she was a true champion on helping keep the flooding people's concerns front and center, she pushed for the opening of the Boo Williams Sportsplex Center, she made sure the City kept a list of what they owned because she realized those were the citizens' assets, not the City's. All of these, while important, are not what I consider her main contribution. That would be getting citizens involved in what happens and engaging in government so their voices can be heard. She will remember when people had contacted her about an issue and then she would call them up and say "You want to do something about it? Here is your chance to get involved." I know this because she did this to me on the water issues. She was my first member when I decided to start the chapter of the Local League of Women Voters in this area. She has always been a champion for citizen engagement; the result being not only that the City, but also the citizens were better off because of her leadership. She will be greatly missed and I am sure her legacy will be remembered for a very long time. Thank you. Miss Glass, I would like this put in the minutes.

Mr. David Braunbeck gave the following statement. My name is David Braunbeck. I live at 2111 E. Pembroke Avenue, Apartment 4B. First off, I want to thank the members of City Council that did show up at the Disabilities Banquet. I know it is a very important thing to all of you every year. We had various groups from around the City at that function. Mr. Wallace, I understand you had a death in the family and you couldn't attend. I just want to say thanks again for coming to the function. I also want to let you know we are working on issues. I am working on issues somewhat. In fact, I will probably be going to Richmond in the next month or so on some issues. I've been asked to help at my church, Saint Joe's, for the Diocese Disabilities Committee. People with disabilities are productive and we need to make sure our cities and people are up to speed on these issues so that we don't get caught in whirlwind (so to speak) and everything would work before it goes down the drain. Last but not least, I want to say a personal goodbye to Angela Leary. She has definitely been a friend to the Disabilities Committee. I myself, personally, will miss her. It's important to note that she did stand with the disabled citizens and all citizens of Hampton. Nobody asked me to say this. I am saying this with all sincerity from my heart. Mr. Kearney, you and Mr. Spencer and Angela Leary were the original three that voted me in for a disability member for the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities. I was asked by various members of Council and citizens. I'm going to leave it at this. I am doing the best I can. I will continue to serve the citizens and all the people of Hampton and surrounding areas that I need to serve. We've got a lot of work to do, but we will get it done. Thank you.

Mr. Frank Ottofaro, 63 Wheatland Drive, gave the following statement. Good evening. I promised Ms. Angela Leary I would dance for her. I wish I had brought my hula skirts (I have two of them). I used to dance with the Las Vegas show band years ago. Good evening Mayor Molly Ward, members of Council, Ms. Mary Bunting, Ms. Cynthia Hudson. My name is Frank Ottofaro. I am here tonight to address the Council on the taking of my property at 11 Pine Chapel Road for the Power Plant. I have been before this Council many times requesting answers on why my property was taken. I'm still waiting for a letter from my government, Ms. Mayor, explaining why the City Council cannot correct the injustice of taking my property for the Power Plant. I have every right to come before this City Council to add my complaints and comments on the wrong that has been done to me. My motto is—do not treat me no better or any worse, but treat me fair and equal. Discrimination is evil and kills the human spirit. I'd like to wish (welcome) Joseph Spencer back. I hope in the time you will be here until June that you help straighten the mess up that I have with the City of Hampton—what they have done to me. You, Mary Bunting, you have protocol—it is the Council's practice to listen to speakers, and not engage in dialogue. Matters requiring a response will be directed to the City Manager for research and response. I have not gotten an answer from the City government on any issues at all. Ms. Bunting, I think you should send your Communications Specialist Ms. McCormick over to CC Spaulding Court to talk to Mr. and Mrs. Webster and Mrs. Haddie Lucas, Mr. Johnny Scott and Mr. Thomas Middleton. They know that I belong to the same group of people. I expect to get 2 ½ times what this City appraised my property for. A. Paul Burton—I was lied to.

Mayor Ward informed Mr. Ottofaro what he was saying was not issue related and he was making personal attacks.

Mr. Ottofaro continued. I've got every right to speak. Please straighten the mess up. That is all I'm asking the City Council to do. You stole my property. I've been working since I was six years old. I was raised on 28th Street and Jefferson Avenue and have

been working ever since. This City is not going to take me out like you have been doing. I promise you that. If I could walk, I would show you what I could do out here. I have done everything legal, but please straighten the mess up. You have every right to straighten this mess up. Don't tell me you don't have the right to do it. You do it for everybody else in the City. Everybody else in the City wants money. I've never been on welfare. I've been working since I was six years old as have a lot of people. I appreciate it. Thank you for your time.

Mayor Ward noted that the next four people signed up to speak indicated they would speak about Harbor Square. She then handed the gavel to Vice Mayor Wallace to preside over that portion of the meeting.

Mr. Jeffrey Rathbone, 147 Chesterfield Road, gave the following statement. Thank you Councilmembers and staff members for allowing us the opportunity to speak this evening. I just wanted to express again—I know that your due diligence period has been up or close to up. I wanted to express again my concern as a life-long resident of Hampton and a taxpayer the concern that I have for the City spending the amount of money for property that at the end of the day from published accounts appears to be for an undetermined future use to the present time. Basically, what the Council is looking at doing is spending an awful lot of money for land that will not be used for the stated purpose in a matter of four years. Probably through your due diligence, you have discovered that there is also a significant additional investment that would be required just to get to that four year period of time. I know that because I have been the lead contractor for a company from the private sector that has an interest in that property that could turn that property into an esthetically pleasing, complementary, attractive, clean and nice gateway into the City. We know that because we have been successful in doing that on public housing for the last eight years. I have personally been involved in over 2,000 units that have gone from the state that is similar or worse than Harbor Square presently and have been turned around by private sector dollars without the use of taxpayer money. I want to again express my concern and I urge the City Council to act in a fiscally responsible manner concerning this matter. Thank you.

Ms. Cynthia Smith, 4602 Southampton Parkway, Richmond, Virginia, gave the following statement. Hello, my name is Cynthia Smith and I am the Director of Property Management for Seminole Trail Management. I come before you once again tonight to express our interest in the purchase of Harbor Square Apartments. With the management of Harbor Square, our mission will be to improve the resident profile of the community through strict criteria by conducting thorough credit and criminal background screenings of all applicants who apply for residency. Standards will be set and maintained requiring applicants to provide proper identification, pass a high level criminal history background check, reach and surpass minimum rent to income thresholds based on market rent rates, provide documentation confirming consistent monthly income and also requiring all applicants that reside in the community to provide information on those occupants. Those are just to name a few. Our goal is to not only mechanically and structurally improve the community, but also to improve the surrounding area as we have done with the Apartments of Merrimac by changing the resident profile. Thank you.

Mr. Crawford Hammond, 13 Adriatic Drive, gave the following statement. I just want to say that this project would bring a lot of work to the City of Hampton—to contractors in the City of Hampton. All of us that do it (contracting) are Hampton citizens. We will

bring in a working class family to the property once it is done which will help support restaurants, bars and everything else around here. I would really like for you all to give us a chance to do this project. Thank you.

Mr. Dale Smith, 1704 Clarkson Road, gave the following statement. Good evening. My name is Dale Smith. I am here tonight to express to Council and the citizens of Hampton the other potential buyer of Harbor Square Apartments is still interested in transforming this community into viable apartment homes that would incorporate the vision the City has for the downtown corridor. The potential buyer is the same owner as the owner of the Apartments of Merrimac on Kecoughtan Road which won the Mayor's Civic Improvement Award in 2010. We understand from a televised work session that some Councilmembers now have concern over the cost of deferred maintenance and capital improvements that are needed, which in my experience of overseeing major construction projects is several million dollars. The City's proposed purchase price of the property is \$14.5 million. The City's own land record shows the land value of less than \$3.5 million. That means taxpayers and citizens will lose \$11 million in value before any rehabilitation is done. For the taxpayers of Hampton to be burdened with this only to tear it down for its land value is not a wise decision for them or the stakeholders of downtown. If Harbor Square was purchased with private money, it would be turned into a conventional apartment community and increase the City of Hampton's tax base. This would create jobs downtown as well as modern housing for the downtown work force and Hampton University. The new tenant base would financially stimulate downtown Hampton by providing approximately 750 residents that have good credit and will shop and eat at downtown establishments. This is a win, win for the City of Hampton and the taxpayers. As I have mentioned at an earlier Council meeting, if we were successful in purchasing this community, it would become an attractive addition to the City. The property would continue to generate tax revenue for the City and much needed urban housing. Just to reiterate—the owner/management would occupy the community with approximately 750 residents that have good credit and no criminal background. This would tremendously lower the crime rate and bring patrons to downtown merchants. The choice is this or the City spends millions of your tax dollars on a property only to spend millions more in maintenance to tear it down and build something they already have land set aside for. Thank you.

Vice Mayor Wallace noted there were no further speakers signed up, and asked if there were any other individuals in the audience that wished to speak. There were no additional speakers. Vice Mayor Wallace returned the gavel to Mayor Ward to preside over the remainder of the meeting.

Mayor Ward stated since there were no additional speakers, the meeting was adjourned.

Adjournment

Molly Joseph Ward
Mayor

Katherine K. Glass, CMC
Clerk of Council

Date approved by Council _____

When I first moved to Hampton my house was repeatedly flooded 3 times in as many years. Since my neighborhood had never flooded before in the 40 years prior I decided to take around a petition and get my neighbors to support me in asking the city to look into the reason. I had never been concerned much with city government before this. I knocked on one of the houses in my neighborhood and talked to a man who kept smiling and me and agreeing with all I said but was not signing my petition. I finally asked are your going to sign the petition? The man was Tom Leary. He laughed and said yes but then said you need to meet my wife. Angela and I soon became good friends.

Angela will be remembered for many things:

- Fighting against inappropriate closed door meetings
- Listening and actually going to see areas citizens had concerns about.
- She was the true champion on helping keep the flooding peoples concerns front and center.
- She pushed to open the Boo Williams Complex
- She made sure the city kept a list of what they owned because she realized that they were the citizens assets

But all these , while important, were not what I consider her main contribution. That was getting citizens to be involved in what happens and engage the government so their voices were heard. She would remember when people had contacted her about an issues and when they could help the city in a process she would call on them and say “you wanted to do something about this now is your chance”. I know because she did that with me in the water issues. She was my first member when I decided to start a chapter of the League of Women Voters in this area. She was always a champion for citizen engagement.

The result being that not only the city but the citizens were better off because of her leadership. She will be greatly missed but I am sure her legacy will be remembered for a long time. Thank you Angela for your dedication to this city.

Carole Garrison
410 Shoreline Drive